the common rivers. This is effected through various high level mechanisms such as the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission and the various Committees that report to the Joint Rivers Commission. The Government of India is committed to strengthening and deepening its cooperation with Bangladesh to the mutual benefit of the people of both the countries.

India and Bangladesh had signed the Treaty on Sharing of the Ganges Waters at Farakka in Decemeber 1996. The Treaty is working well. The Treaty is for 30 years, with a provision for mandatory reviews after every five years. Accordingly, the first such mandatory review became due in December 2001.

**Atrocities on Bangladeshi Hindus**

†*45. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team consisting of members of Senate/ Congress was sent to Bangladesh by America to investigate the atrocities being committed on minorities (Hindus) there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made by Government so far, to protect the Hindu community in Bangladesh; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The Government is not in a position to comment on the visit of a team consisting of members of Senate/Congress to Bangladesh from America to investigate atrocities being committed on minorities (Hindus) in Bangladesh. However, the Government has been concerned at the reports of atrocities on minorities and has taken it up regularly with the Government of Bangladesh.

(c) and (d) There were reports of some attacks on temples and puja mandaps during the recent Durga Puja festival in Bangladesh. Following the attacks, Government of Bangladesh had issued instructions for providing special security including deployment of Bangladesh Rifles to ensure peaceful celebrations of Durga Puja. The Home Minister and other senior leaders also publicly reassured the minorities of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government's commitment to ensuring peaceful celebrations of Durga Puja. Following the tight security measures, the Durga Puja celebrations were held in 17000 *puja mandaps* throughout the country.

Regular interaction is held with Government of Bangladesh at different levels and occasions including most recently on the eve of Durga Puja celebrations. Earlier, after the elections in Bangladesh in October 2001, the Government had noted with serious concern reports of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh. This was taken up at a high level with the Government of Bangladesh. Action has been reportedly initiated on many of the prepetrators of the violence.

**Griha Kalyan Kendras**

*46. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Griha Kalyan Kendras (GKK) being run by Government across the country alongwith number of employees working therein, category-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to provide pensionary benefits to these employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Griha Kalyan Kendra, a registered Society, is running its various welfare activities in 38 Samaj Sadans and 36 other premises in Delhi and in nine other cities. 245 employees are presently engaged in GKK whose cateogry-wise details are as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Secretary | 1 |
| (ii) | Office Superintendent | 1 |
| (iii) | Accounts Officers | 1 |
| (iv) | Security Officer | 1 |
| (v) | Centre Incharge | 2 |
| (vi) | Gym Instructor | 2 |
| (vii) | Cashier | 3 |